employees as well as from the MPs by the Ministry/Bank during the last three years till date; and

(h) whether these letters have been inquired into, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

513. *(Transferred to 9th December, 1993.)*

Merger of New Bank of India with Punjab National Bank ..

514. SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that New Bank of India has been merged with the Punjab National Bank, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the seniority of the employees of the New Bank of India has been affected by this merger;

(c) whether it is a fact that without framing any transfer policy the employees of the New Bank of India have been posted to far off places from their residences, and the juniors who were working in Punjab National Bank have been retained in Delhi;

(d) if so, the number of employees who have joined their duties on transfer;

(e) what are the reasons for this discrimination; and

(f) whether the employees of the New Bank of India have submitted a representation to Government, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Owing to continuous deterioration in the financial position of the erstwhile New Bank of India over the past several years, the Government amalagamated it with Punjab National Bank on 4th September, 1993. The Scheme relating to inter-se seniority of the officers and other employees of erstwhile New Bank of India vis-a-vis the officers and other employees of Punjab National Bank has not yet been notified.

(c) to (f) On account of the amalgamation, several structural changes had to be effected, which included closure of the Head Office and several Regional Offices of the erstwhile New Bank of India. This has necessarily rendered a substantial workforce of officers and other employees surplus at various stations, especially at Delhi where the Head Office and Regional Office of erstwhile New Bank of India were located. In order to ensure optimum utilisation of these officers and other employees the Punjab National Bank has drawn up guidelines for their transfer/redeployment. The guidelines envisage minimum inconvenience possible by transferring the desired staff within the same station, within the same zone or within the same linguistic area etc. depending upon their length of service. The guidelines do not envisage transfer of the female staff, physically handicapped employees and those on the verge of retirement. As per information furnished by Punjab National Bank, 400 employees have joined their duties on transfer outside the headquarters.

Representations have been received by the Government opposing the transfers effected by Punjab National Bank. Personnel matters however are to be decided by the concerned bank and Government therefore does not propose to intervene in any way.